

In the Specification:

Please make amendments to various paragraphs as follows:

[0010] Briefly, the present invention provides a clamp comprising a body having a first portion, a second portion, and a hinge connecting the first portion and the second portion, such that the first portion is disposable to face against the second portion when clamping around and to either one catheter lumen or a side-by-side pair of catheter lumens proximate to the hinge. The first portion includes a tab extending distal from the hinge and wherein the second portion includes a locking means for releasably locking the tab to the second portion.

[0028] The free end 114 of the first portion 112 includes a free end portion or narrow elongate tab 134 that extends away from the hinge 132. The first portion 112 also includes a recessed portion 136 disposed on the top face 118 proximate to the connected end 116. The second portion 122 includes a recessed portion 142 disposed on the top face 128 proximate to the connected end 126.

[0029] The top face 128 of the second portion 122 also includes a lock 146 that secures the tab 134 when the first portion 112 is pivoted about the hinge 132 so that the top face 118 of the first portion 112 engages the top face 128 of the second portion 122. Fig. 2 shows a sectional view of the lock 146. The lock 146 is comprised of a guide 148 that extends generally orthogonally from the top face 128 of the second portion 122 and a cantilevered portion 150 that also extends generally orthogonally from the top face 128 of the second portion 122, with a longitudinal channel 152 separating the guide 148 and the cantilevered portion 150. The

cantilevered portion 150 is disposed on a ledge 139 that extends away from the second portion 122. The ledge 139 is connected to the second portion 122 by a recessed portion 140. The recessed portion 140 is a flexible section that allows the ledge to be biased about the recessed portion 140 to permit pivoting of the cantilevered portion 150 away from the guide 148, thus allowing the tab 134 to be disposed within the channel 152 to releasably lock the free end 114 of the first portion to the second portion 122.

[0030] The cantilevered portion 150 includes a beveled face 156 that guides the tab 134 toward the guide 148 and into the channel 152. The cantilevered portion 150 also includes a latching ledge 158 that extends partially over and partially into the channel 52. The latching ledge 158 extends toward the guide 148 and into the channel 152 sufficiently so that the channel 152 is narrower than the tab 134 at the latching ledge 158.

[0031] The second portion 122 also preferably includes a weakened portion 141 disposed between the free end 124 and the lock 146. The weakened portion 141, shown in Fig. 1 as a generally transverse “V-shaped” cutout or groove, allows the free end 124 to flex relative to the remaining part of the second portion 122 to provide the inserting physician with some flexibility in gripping and maneuvering the clamp 110.

[0033] Operation of the clamp 110 is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, with reference to the sectional view of Fig. 2. Operation of the clamp 110' is identical to operation of the clamp 110 and needs not be discussed. At least one, and preferably two catheters 100, 102 are disposed within the recessed portion 142. The first portion 112 is pivoted about the hinge 132 toward the

second portion 122 so that the top face 118 of the first portion 112 faces the top face 128 of the second portion 122 and traversing the catheter lumens 100,102. The tab 134 engages the beveled face 156 of the cantilevered portion 150, wherein the tab 134 is guided into the channel 152. Since the channel 152 is narrower than the tab 134 at the latching ledge 158, the cantilevered portion 150 bends about the recessed portion 140 away from the channel 152 , the recessed portion defining a flexible section. As the tab 134 clears the latching ledge 158, the cantilevered portion 150 snaps back to its original position, locking the tab 134 in the channel 152 between the latching ledge 158 and the top face 128 of the second portion 122 and latches atop a side edge of tab 134.

[0039] The first portion 212 includes a free end portion having a slot 234 that extends longitudinally between the free end 214 and the ~~inside face 219~~ connecting end 216. The second portion 222 also includes a vertically projecting tab or lock 246 that engages the slot 234 when the first portion 212 is pivoted about the hinge 232 so that the top face 218 of the first portion 212 faces the top face 228 of the second portion 222. The lock 246 is comprised of a locking member 250 having a rounded top and that extends generally obliquely from the top face 228 of the second portion 222. A cantilevered portion 252 extends away from the locking member 250 toward the free end 224 of the second portion 222 and includes a ledge that latches atop an edge of slot 234. Between the ledge and the rounded top the surface of the cantilevered portion is shown to be beveled.

[0044] Another embodiment of a clamp 410 is shown in Fig. 9. The clamp 410 is preferably a generally elongated strip comprised of a first portion 412 having a free end portion

414 concluding in a free end edge, and a connected end 416. A top face 418 extends between the free end 414 and the connected end 416. Optionally, the top face 418 may include at least one longitudinal rib 419 extending outwardly therefrom. A bottom face 420, disposed away from the top face 418, also extends between the free end 414 and the connected end 416. The clamp 410 is further comprised of a second portion 422 having a free end 424 and a connected end 426. A top face 428 extends between the free end 424 and the connected end 426. Optionally, the top face 428 may include at least one longitudinal rib 429 extending outwardly therefrom. Preferably, the at least one longitudinal rib 429 is offset from the at least one longitudinal rib 419 on the first portion 412. A bottom face 430, disposed away from the top face 428, also extends between the free end 424 and the connected end 426. The second portion 422 also preferably includes a gripping ring 438 disposed at the free end 424. The gripping ring 438 facilitates gripping the clamp 410 by the inserting physician during catheter insertion.

[0046] The free end 414 of the first portion 412 includes a vertical projection [[tab]] 434 that extends away from the top face 418. The first portion 412 also includes a recessed portion 436 disposed on the top face 418 proximate to the connected end 416. The second portion 422 includes slot 441 complementary to vertical projection 434 of first portion 412, and also a recessed portion 442 disposed on the top face 428 proximate to the connected end 426.

[0047] The top face 428 of the second portion 422 also includes a vertically projecting tab or lock 446 that secures the transverse end edge of free end 414 of the first portion 412 when the first portion 412 is pivoted about the hinge 432 so that the top face 418 of the first portion 412 engages the top face 428 of the second portion 422. The lock 446 includes a cantilevered

portion 448 that extends away from the top face 438 and toward the free end 424 of the second portion 422. The lock 446 also includes a ledge 450 that extends toward the connected end 426 of the second portion 422 , and locks atop a transverse end edge of free end 414. The free end 414 of the first portion 412 may optionally include a recess 452 along the bottom face 420 that is engageable with the tab 450 when the clamp 410 is in a closed position.